



Requirements

All riparian herbaceous cover must be adjacent to an eligible water body and a minimum of 25 feet wide. Grazing of the buffer is not allowed and livestock must be excluded.

Vegetation shall be established by planting desired vegetation according to the Virginia Plant Establishment Guide or through natural regeneration.

Planting of native vegetation is encouraged.

Riparian herbaceous cover may be cut and used for hay as shown in the photograph.

Riparian Herbaceous Cover

Riparian herbaceous cover is an area of grass, forbs, and other herbaceous vegetation adjacent to streams, ponds, wetlands and active sinkholes. This vegetation promotes improved water quality by filtering and removing sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants from surface and groundwater.

Riparian herbaceous cover helps stabilize streambanks and provides stability to the water course. Wildlife and fisheries habitat is improved with the installation of riparian herbaceous cover.

It can also function as landscape linkages connecting various existing habitats.

Maintenance

- ▶ To maintain the vigor of the riparian herbaceous cover, periodic mowing, burning, haying or disking may be performed.
- ▶ The area must be protected from livestock.
- ▶ Control noxious weeds and undesirable vegetation.
- ▶ Inspect cover periodically and repair any damage (i.e., debris buildup and gullies) which developed as a result of storms.

Riparian Herbaceous Cover - Specifications Sheet

Landowner _____

Type of water feature	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stream	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland
<input type="checkbox"/> Sinkhole	<input type="checkbox"/> Pond
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ag Ditch
Name of water feature (if applicable)	

Sketch of Layout

Riparian Herbaceous Cover Layout	Buffer 1	Buffer 2	Buffer 3
Total length of buffer (ft.)			
Average width of buffer (ft.)			
Total acres to be established			
Species #1*			
Species #2*			
Species #3*			
Seeding rate (PLS) (lbs/acre)			
Seeding Date			
Lime (tons/acre)			
Fertilizer (formulation & lbs/acre)			
Mulch			

* For natural succession and/or existing vegetation, document that this option was used and include a statement that the vegetation is sufficient to meet the desired objective and intent of the standard.

List Associated Practices (i.e., fencing, livestock water...)
Operation & Maintenance Requirement